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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50
By Person

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Curtis Edwin Lee Person on his installation as King PTAH XXXI.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those remarkable Tennesseans who, through their natural talents and extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edwin Lee Person is one such outstanding citizen who will serve as the new King of The Grand Krewe of PTAH; and

WHEREAS, he will be crowned King PTAH XXXI, a marvelous achievement for the first year of the new millennium; his installation will be held on February 10, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Lee and his wife, Susie Person, have been active and valuable members of PTAH for the last fifteen years; Susie Person was appropriately crowned the Krewe Queen in 1993, and Lee Person meritoriously served as PTAH chairman in 1997; and

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WHEREAS, The Grand Krewe of PTAH is named after the Egyptian Creator God from the ancient city of Memphis, which was located on the Nile River; PTAH, established in 1970, is one of several other Krewes, to originate in the "Cotton Carnival" era; and

WHEREAS, PTAH is an excellent service and social organization that promotes and contributes to numerous children's charities, including Ronald McDonald House, Race for the Cure, and Target House; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edwin Lee Person was born in 1946 to William Thomas and Dorothy Person of Greenwood, Mississippi; his father was an accomplished author of children's books and both his parents were dedicated school teachers; and

WHEREAS, he has been blessed with the friendship of his two brothers, Tom Person and Spence Person of Memphis and his sister, Elinor Ulrich of Portland, Oregon; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Curtis Edwin Lee Person moved with his family to Panama City, Florida, where he was a remarkable and active student; in his senior year of high school, he served astutely as Student Body President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Person earned an Associate of Arts degree from Gulf Coast Junior College in Panama City in 1966, and was a distinguished graduate of Memphis State University in 1970, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education; and

WHEREAS, all of his accomplishments aside, Lee Person feels fortunate to share the love and companionship of his wife, Susie Deckshot Person, of Milan, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, they have been happily married for twenty-eight years, and are the proud parents of two sons, Brian, 22 and Justin, 19; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life Curtis Edwin Lee Person has distinguished himself as a dilligent and dedicated professional, earning the respect and admiration of his supervisors, peers, and employees for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Lee Person has served meritoriously and skillfully as a school teacher, a salesman of insurance and forklifts, the manager of a restaurant, and as a hotel bellman; and

WHEREAS, since 1983, he has worked alongside his wife, Susie; the Persons are the owners of Flowers Unlimited in Memphis and Lee is also co-owner of Memphis Flower Auction.Com; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Person faithfully served as choir director for the Independent Presbyterian Church from 1972 to 1988, and was a talented assistant director and soloist with the Sara Beth Causey Chorale; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edwin Person has donated his remarkable abilities and his time to the Whitehaven Presbyterian Church, serving with grace and distinction as its choir director since 1989; and

WHEREAS, Lee Person enjoys coin collecting and is an enthusiastic fisherman, whenever time permits; and

WHEREAS, he also appreciates and enjoys the sport of judo, and during the last thirty-five years, he has placed first in forty-seven tournaments; through his hard work and talent, he has duly achieved the rank of fourth degree Black Belt; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Mr. Person was honored as an All-American in judo and was the United States Open Weight Champion; in that same year, he admirably competed at the World Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, and was named by *Black Belt* magazine as one of its top ten judo players; and

WHEREAS, an honorable gentleman and accomplished athlete, Curtis Edwin Lee Person received the 1973 National Sportsmanship Award; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Edwin Lee Person, a remarkable citizen of Tennessee, is most deserving of the respect and recognition of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Curtis Edwin Lee Person upon his

installation as King PTAH XXXI. We extend to him our best wishes for much future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.